

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 9, 10, 15 and 16 were pending herein. These claims have been amended and new claim 17 has been added hereby. Accordingly, claims 9, 10 and 15-17 will pending herein upon entry of this amendment. For the reasons stated below, all the claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 16 was objected to and all of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103 relying on Ogino, Nakamura and Beck. To the extent these grounds of rejection might be applied to claims now pending in this application, they are respectfully traversed.

Preliminarily, it is believed that objection to claim 16 is clearly overcome by the amendments to that claim.

Amended claim 9 now incorporates the features found in Figs. 9-10 (see also the corresponding description from page 16, line 24 to page 17, line 8). Specifically, amended claim 9 sets forth among other things that, prior to mounting a plurality of capacitor elements onto the frame, the conductive bolster is connected commonly to the conductive wires of the plurality of capacitor elements, and the conductive bolster is subsequently cut between the conductive wires. These features make it possible to connect the conductive bolster to the plural capacitor elements at one time by resistance welding for example, thereby enhancing the production efficiency. The same features are also found in amended claim 15.

In US Patent No. 6,236,561 to Ogino et al., a reverse V-shaped bolster 8c is associated with only a single capacitor element 1 at any stage of the manufacturing process. A similar discussion also applies to JP-A 3-89509 to Nakamura et al. and US Patent No. 4,488,204 to Beck, Jr.

New independent claim 17 incorporates the feature found in Fig. 19 (see the exposed end surfaces 35a) and described at lines 10-19, page 20. Specifically, claim 17 sets forth among other things that the conductive bolster is cut to be exposed at the opposite pair of side surfaces of the resin package. This feature is advantageous in that the conductive bolster also serves as a polarity indicator. None of the cited prior art documents shows this feature.

In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Applicant respectfully inquires as to the status of the above-identified patent application, and when the next communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application may be expected.

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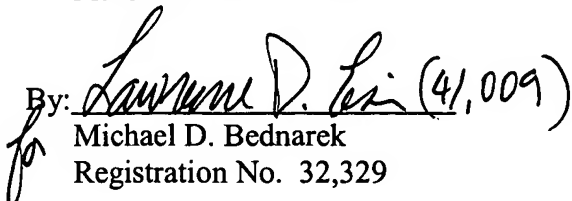
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Respectfully submitted,

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